

OPERATOR TACTICS

FAITHS AFTER THE UPHEAVAL



TERRA CONFLICTUS 2066
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TERRA CONFLICTUS 2066

An Operator Tactics Supplement by Jesse Alexander

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USING RELIGION IN TC2066

The Upheaval did not erase the world's existing religions. Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Sikhism, traditional and Indigenous religions, secular humanism, and thousands of local traditions all persist, some institutionally powerful, some surviving as neighborhood practice, family obligation, or private devotion. None of them are cultural fossils. None of them are covered in this book.

What's covered here is newer. Some entries are religions in the full sense. Others are devotional orders, ethical fellowships, political theologies, or operator traditions that outsiders call religions because they lack a better category. A character can belong to one of these movements and stay part of an older faith at the same time. Most do.

The PCU Prophet's state faith and the Heralds of the Storm's theology of the Gift already exist in core canon. They are not redefined here. What's here is religious life beyond those two institutions: belief that crosses faction lines instead of enforcing them.

Every movement in this book grew out of something the setting already does to people: gene-forged voice ownership, water-tier displacement, Lumicite exposure, engineered ecology, autonomous warfare, the Document Wars, operator death and erasure, coastal retreat. None of them explain the Upheaval. All of them explain what a person does the day after infrastructure fails and nobody official is coming.

FIELD NOTE. Cayo Nkrumah, *Territories and Contested Zones*, 2061

"Ask an operator what they believe and most of them will tell you about their unit before they tell you about a god. Ask what they won't do and you'll hear the actual religion. I've met Cupkeepers who'd sooner starve than fake a water test, and Rosterkeepers who carry the names of people three different governments insist are dead. Nobody asked them to believe anything. They just decided what the world owed them and started acting like it was true."

QUICK REFERENCE

MOVEMENT	BORN FROM	STRONGEST PRESENCE	WHAT OUTSIDERS NOTICE
The Unmuted	Gene-forged voice ownership and the Speaking Chain	Menagerie routes, Neo-Tokyo Sub-2, Lost Angeles outer districts	Chosen grains, hand-cant liturgy, horns deliberately left open
Covenant of the Returning Cup	Water tiers, displacement, civic abandonment	Lakefire, Flooded London, Java Scatter, Saharan margins	Public water tests, a cup always reserved for a stranger
The Listening Geometry	Lumicite exposure, installation work	BAFO-adjacent camps, Granitsa, Lakefire, Metropoli Perdida	Shielded blue-white lamps, strict silence around unshielded mineral
The Root Assembly	Living cities, engineered ecologies	Amazonian Metroplex, Patagonia, Arcadia	Communal gardens treated as voting members of the congregation
Order of the Last Valid	Signal blackouts, autonomous warfare	EO steppe, Neo-Tokyo technical strata, operator motor pools	Decommissioning vigils, ritual review of final orders
The Ash Archive	The Document Wars, recovered history	Null Chorus circles, universities, data markets	Every testimony copied three times in different media
The Last Roster	Operator death, administrative erasure, unpaid obligations	Splices everywhere	Roll calls that include the missing and the officially dead
Pilgrims of the Second Shore	Coastal retreat, climate diaspora	Flooded London, New Batavia, Lost Angeles, Gulf Shore	Paired old-and-new maps, shrines at former high-water lines

This is not a hierarchy. Nothing here outranks anything else, in play or in the world. A splice can cross four of these movements before lunch and owe something to each of them by dinner.

01 /

THE UNMUTED

*No body, government, or god-appointed ruler can own
another person's voice.*

THE UNMUTED

No body, government, or god-appointed ruler can own another person's voice.

Formal name. The Fellowship of the Unmuted Witness. **Common names.** The Unmuted, Open Horns, the Free Voice. **Symbol.** An open hand crossed by three short signal lines.

THE CLAIM

A voice is not the sound a throat produces. It is deliberate meaning offered to another person. Hand-cant, a synthetic grain, text, gesture, growl, and silence can all be true speech. An oath binds because of the will behind it, not the hardware that rendered it. No employer, manufacturer, or state gets a vote.

The movement started among gene-forged operators whose company grains were revoked after desertion. Its first gatherings were half repair clinic, half testimony circle. Cant elders, black-market fitters, and ex-faction chaplains turned a rights practice into a fellowship.

HISTORY AND NAMED FIGURES

Unmuted tradition marks its start at **the Refusal at Clearance Point 9**. The core is real: the EO listed Aleksander Marta killed in action in 2062, reassigned him without consent, issued him a new identity, and lost him when he chose neither. The religious version says he opened his horn and answered a handler's demand for his new designation with three words, later entrusted to Vasil Dorenko. Nobody agrees what the words were. Marta won't confirm the exchange happened and refuses the title *First Unmuted* whenever someone offers it to his face.

Adjoa Amponsah's independent clinics performed some of the first documented governor removals for gene-forged veterans outside faction care. She insists these were medical procedures, not sacraments, and the Fellowship treats that insistence as a founding teaching: liberation that needs a supernatural explanation is less useful than competent care.

Dray's Lost Angeles mutual-aid network shelters the largest known Open Horn room in NAF territory. Dray won't preach and isn't ordained. Their rule that the network must survive its own founder is why Unmuted rooms distribute throatware access and grain keys through witness networks instead of trusting a charismatic leader with the keys.

PRACTICES

First Grain. A member chooses a voice without employer approval. Three witnesses hear it on an open horn and answer in hand-cant. The grain can change later — the choice is sacred, not the file.

The Honest Channel. Before speaking at an important meeting, a speaker declares *open*, *closed*, or *cant*. Secret communication is fine. Hiding which channel you're on is not.

The Long Silence. Memorial for someone who went quiet, died, or lost access to the Chain. The room communicates only by hand-cant for one hour.

Unmuting. Disabling an employer governor counts as medical aid and liberation both. Some rooms run illegal throatware benches behind the worship space.

ROLES AND PROHIBITIONS

Witnesses certify freely chosen oaths. **Cant Elders** preserve lineage sign languages. **Fitters** maintain bridges, horns, and stray grains. A congregation is a **room**, even outdoors.

Muting someone except to stop immediate harm is sacrilege. Voice theft is identity assault. A dead person's grain needs consent given while alive to be used at all. Company voices can be worn — never represented as freely chosen when they weren't.

Internal split. Cant-First rooms distrust recordable speech entirely. Open Horns insist liberation has to be audible and public. The Borrowed Choir permits consensual sharing of living and dead grains as communal identity — Witnesses elsewhere consider the practice dangerous even where it's legal.

THE RELIC, THE ROOM, THE RITE

Marta's Refusal Grain. Purportedly recorded when Marta rejected his assigned identity. Three words in a damaged, unregistered grain. At least eleven copies circulate; waveform analysis shows no two match. Dorenko could likely identify the real one but won't risk exposing how much of his Accountability File the Fellowship already has. Rooms don't play the file as scripture — they play the silence after it and ask who benefits from filling it in.

Room Zero. An illegal throatware clinic in a sealed maintenance annex between Neo-Tokyo Sub-2 and Sub-3. Address changes with Ghosted transit routes. Eight fitting stations, a cant school, a shielded testimony booth, no central grain archive. Every key is split among people who can't open the clinic alone.

The Second Voice. Performed when injury or corruption makes a chosen grain unusable. The person tests new channels with no pressure to recreate the old voice. Witnesses repeat, in the old channel and then the new: *The speaker continued*. If the person can't choose, the rite stays unfinished — no caretaker completes it for them.

GM Tip. The Null Collective cooperates with Unmuted fitters. Menagerie communities often host rooms. PRC authorities tolerate registered congregations but treat stray-grain rites as identity fraud. The PCU has never settled whether horn-sworn vows are binding, which makes Unmuted Witnesses valuable and controversial in any oath dispute the table runs into.

Hook. A dead operator's grain asks the splice to destroy every copy of itself. One room calls it a valid final request. Another believes the file holds testimony that belongs to the living.

Hook. A company-voice squad starts attending services together. Nobody knows which squad member is speaking when the shared grain confesses to a war crime.

02/

COVENANT OF THE RETURNING CUP

*Water is never owned. It is held briefly, altered by use,
and returned.*

COVENANT OF THE RETURNING CUP

Water is never owned. It is held briefly, altered by use, and returned.

Common names. Cupkeepers, the Fifth Cup, Returners. **Symbol.** A cup beneath a broken circle — no cycle closes by itself.

THE CLAIM

The moral question isn't whether someone paid for water. It's what condition they received it in and what condition they pass it on in. Concealing contamination is a grave sin. Denying survival water to enforce status is spiritual violence.

The Covenant formed independently in several places after the Cascade — Tanganyika lakeside communities, Flooded London filtration crews, Java Scatter desal workers, mutual-aid blocks at the edge of PCU oasis cities. They recognized each other through a shared custom: four cups for those present, a fifth kept for whoever arrives next.

HISTORY AND NAMED FIGURES

The unifying event was the **Tigris-Euphrates Diversion of 2058**, when the EO redirected roughly a third of downstream flow into extraction territory and helped trigger an agricultural collapse. **Tariq Al-Masri**, then a downstream civil engineer, worked the failed response. A line from his field notebook — *upstream calls it allocation; downstream buries the difference* — opens the Covenant's oldest water-accounting litany. Al-Masri won't confirm the wording and finds Cupkeepers useful right up until their reverence for infrastructure gets in the way of the Sons of the Serpent's willingness to destroy it.

The Saharan branch traces its Fifth Cup practice through **Fatima El-Amin's** three-generation monitoring network. She lets Cupkeepers use Herald stations but rejects any claim that she founded their religion. Her running disagreement with Al-Masri is a famous Covenant argument: she says a damaged system serving a community gets defended until a replacement exists; he says some systems manufacture the emergency that makes them indispensable.

Adjoa Amponsah formalized the rule against contaminating memorial water after treating preventable illness from improvised burial rites near a failing well. Her clinic network now certifies many Cupkeeper Walkers.

PRACTICES

The First Test. Before a shared meal, a keeper tests the water in public and states its source, treatment, and known risks aloud. Uncertainty gets spoken, not smoothed over.

The Fifth Cup. A reserve kept for a stranger, enemy, or late arrival. Drinking it yourself is allowed only after declaring the emergency in front of witnesses.

Filter Service. Cleaning membranes and teaching water testing count as worship. A keeper who can't repair anything is expected to carry tools for someone who can.

Returning. At death, the household pours one cup of clean water into a civic system, garden, or watershed in the deceased's name. The rite never puts remains or contaminants into drinking water.

ROLES AND PROHIBITIONS

Cupkeepers run local tests and reserves. **Counters** audit whether a community's promises match its actual stock. **Walkers** carry filter media and contamination warnings between settlements.

Falsifying a purity test, hiding a reserve during a public emergency, poisoning a source, or using water access to compel conversion are cardinal offenses. Theft of water is judged by circumstance. Theft of filtration equipment never is.

Internal split. Open Source congregations publish every water map and treatment protocol. Protected Well congregations conceal vulnerable sources from factions and raiders. The Dry Verdict teaches that infrastructure saboteurs forfeit the Fifth Cup — most councils reject this as vengeance wearing stewardship's clothes.

THE RELIC, THE HOUSE, THE RITE

The Downstream Kit. A battered field water-analysis case, allegedly used during the 2058 diversion response. The interior is covered in settlement names, dates, and contaminant readings in several hands. Al-Masri recognizes two of the hands and disputes the rest. The reagents are long expired, but the case's false bottom may hold an original diversion model proving the collapse was projected before the EO finished the works.

The Five-Cistern House. A neutral water station in the Saharan buffer, kept by one Cupkeeper from each of five communities that agree on almost nothing else. The cisterns are physically separate so contamination in one can't spread to the others. General Seku's Compact recognizes it as noncombatant infrastructure. The PCU calls it an unlicensed allocation point.

Opening the Reserve. When ordinary supply fails, a Counter reads the reserve ledger publicly, names who gets endangered by breaking the seal, and asks if anyone has an alternative. The seal breaks in full view. The rite creates accountability. It doesn't make the choice fair.

GM Tip. The ACU works comfortably with Cupkeepers. PCU water administrators employ some while watching the Covenant as a rival moral authority. NAF utilities praise the volunteer labor and resist the audit demands. In the Lakefire Corridor, Covenant testimony about Lumicite leakage is operationally sensitive — treat a Cupkeeper witness there as a live wire, not flavor text.

Hook. A public test proves a Tier One supply is contaminated while a nearby Tier Three line stays clean. Three authorities want the test kit, for three different reasons.

Hook. A hidden well can save a settlement under siege. Revealing it honors the Fifth Cup and may condemn every community downstream that depends on it staying hidden.

03/

THE LISTENING GEOMETRY

*Something can be received but not yet understood.
Naming it too early is vanity.*

THE LISTENING GEOMETRY

Something can be received but not yet understood. Naming it too early is vanity.

Formal name. The Concord of Receiver and Seal. **Common names.** Listeners, Geometers, the Quiet Measure. **Symbol.** A small circle enclosed by an incomplete hexagon.

THE CLAIM

Humanity has encountered something that can be received but not understood — divine, natural, alien, or none of those. Naming it too early is vanity. The only defensible posture is disciplined attention joined to containment: every receiver needs a seal.

The Concord grew among installation laborers, BAFO support staff, and gene-forged operators who felt the sound-adjacent sensation near Lumicite. It borrows vocabulary from Liminal Concord and Architect fragments, usually without knowing how close those fragments are to the truth.

HISTORY AND NAMED FIGURES

The movement's name comes from **Elias Lumenfeld's Liminal Concord**, but its position on Lumenfeld himself stays deliberately unresolved. Sealers call him *the First Caution* — the researcher who saw that suppression could become training. Answerers call him *the Interrupted Listener* — his 1961 disappearance stopped the experiment that needed to happen. Concord readings pair his surviving memo with a blank page representing everything the Document Wars destroyed.

Nadia Sorokina's unreported cohort-link data circulates in Concord houses as *the Eightfold Observation*. She's never released the complete profiles and has denounced the religious copies as technically incomplete. She's right. That hasn't stopped Receivers from reading her recent cohort as proof that shared perception can emerge without being designed.

In Neo-Tokyo, a radical house reads the unauthorized exchanges **Dr. Chen Yingxi** logged between Project Amaterasu and a signal tied to the UNSO Traveler as first contact between two nonhuman receivers. Yingxi rejects the conclusion — she has evidence of communication, not its meaning. **Kenji Reeve's** observation of synchronized Pack behavior across the Traveler's hull has only sharpened the argument.

PRACTICES

The Shielded Vigil. A congregation sits near a properly shielded Lumicite sample and records dreams, sensory anomalies, and silence. No interpretation until the next day.

Measure Before Meaning. Every claimed revelation gets logged with location, physical state, instrumentation, and possible contamination. A vision with no conditions attached is unusable.

Closing the Figure. At the end of a gathering, power is grounded, shielding checked, and every attendee confirms their own name and current intention.

The Unanswered Prayer. A member asks a question aloud and makes no attempt to force an answer — a deliberate test of how badly the questioner wants noise to become meaning.

ROLES AND PROHIBITIONS

Measures maintain instruments and exposure logs. **Sealers** control samples and enforce safety. **Receivers** are people with repeatable sensitivity, many gene-forged. Ethical houses forbid treating Receivers as on-demand oracles.

Unshielded exposure without informed consent is desecration. Deliberately accelerating Template Drift is forbidden. No signal event authorizes violence on its own. Members are required to separate what they perceived from what they believe it meant.

Internal split. Sealers believe containment is the moral task until humanity understands the risk. Answerers believe excessive shielding is blocking the communication the signal is attempting. The Prior Receiver sect claims life evolved in response to the signal and treats gene-forged drift as pilgrimage — its retreats have a high casualty rate.

THE RELIC, THE CHAPEL, THE RITE

Lumenfeld Fragment 7. A single analog page attributed to the 1961 memo, describing a receiver that "precedes the signal" — the exact wording shifts across authenticated transcriptions. Near unshielded Lumicite, cameras produce faint marks in the margins that readers can't see directly. BAFO calls it sensor interference. Answerers say the page is still writing itself. Ashkeepers note the paper stock dates to 1974, thirteen years after Lumenfeld disappeared.

The Closed Measure. A shielded chapel built around an abandoned BAFO monitoring point in the Granitsa margin. Outer rooms are open to travelers. The inner chamber opens only to a Sealer, a Receiver, and someone with no known substrate sensitivity, acting together. Beneath it sits a shaft BAFO records as permanently collapsed. Vigil readings suggest it's open and getting deeper.

Closing the Figure (crisis form). Used when a Receiver starts repeating, answering, or moving in response to an unexplained signal event. Power is grounded, Lumicite shielded or removed, and each participant states name, location, and last deliberate choice. The Receiver is never restrained for speaking alone — but the rite always includes a medical team and an exit path.

GM Truth. The Concord's discipline is safer than its theology. The substrate signal is real, Lumicite is an antenna, and gene-forged templates are receivers. That doesn't mean any sect correctly understands what's transmitting, what it wants, or whether "want" even applies.

GM Tip. BAFO officially denies any religious relationship but quietly recruits competent Sealers. The Prometheus League penetrates Answerer circles. Factions monitor the Concord for installation coordinates. If your table is running BAFO or the Lumenfeld arc from the core Setting Guide, a Listening Geometry vigil is a clean way to surface a GM secret without a briefing-room infodump.

Hook. A Receiver records a phrase in a company grain they've never carried. HELIX VOICE traces the grain to someone dead since 2058.

Hook. A Sealer house hires the splice to retrieve a stolen sample. The thieves aren't selling it — they're carrying it somewhere it seems to be affecting from a distance.

04/

THE ASSEMBLY

ROOT

*Life is a negotiation among organisms, environments,
and generations, not scenery.*

THE ROOT ASSEMBLY

Life is a negotiation among organisms, environments, and generations, not scenery.

Common names. Rootbound, Assembly Gardens, the Living Commons. **Symbol.** Three roots meeting beneath an empty seat.

THE CLAIM

Life is a negotiation among organisms, environments, and generations — not scenery, inventory, or sovereign property. A community earns legitimacy only by returning enough to the systems that sustain it. The Assembly extends moral standing beyond humanity without pretending every living thing is gentle or safe.

The first Assembly Gardens appeared among Amazonian Metroplex agricultural workers living inside systems that were simultaneously habitat, infrastructure, surveillance network, and weapon. Their founding question was practical: if the city is alive, what's owed to it, and what can it demand back?

HISTORY AND NAMED FIGURES

Three living people sit at the center of the Assembly's central dispute. **Director Santiago Melo** helped design the Metroplex's biological communication backbone and later deployed mycorrhizal monitoring across the Java Scatter and Arcadia. Rootbound texts call his unresolved question — whether ecological restoration justifies involuntary surveillance — *Melo's Burden*. He hates the phrase; it makes an engineering failure sound noble.

Dr. Lian Zhao, architect of VERDANT, is honored by Commons Gardeners for proving a protective model has to be able to admit its blind spot. That honor is premature — her complete findings on the network intrusion remain unpublished. If they go public, congregations will celebrate the *Opening of the Findings*. If suppressed, Severed Root cells will treat her as proof that institutional conscience always arrives too late.

Eleanor Calderwood funds the project connecting Zhao's work to Melo's network. Green Dominion congregations call her the *Patron of Independence*. Other Assemblies call her the *Second Owner* — replacing faction control with proprietary biological infrastructure changes the claimant, not the claim. She funds both kinds of garden and comments on neither title.

PRACTICES

The Empty Seat. Every council leaves one place unoccupied for the local ecology. A trained **Speaker for the Seat** presents soil, water, and growth data before major decisions.

Reciprocity Ledger. Congregations record what they extracted, repaired, killed, planted, and failed to restore. Read aloud seasonally.

Clean Return. Bodies compost into a memorial garden only after removing ammunition, heavy metals, implants, and engineered compounds. Returning poison to the soil isn't sacred.

Boundary Asking. Before clearing new ground, members mark the intended line and wait one full local cycle to see what uses the space.

ROLES AND PROHIBITIONS

Gardeners maintain the commons. **Speakers for the Seat** combine ecological training with moral authority. **Cutters** are solemnly licensed to destroy dangerous growth — mercy sometimes means removal.

Ecological data can't be falsified to sanctify development. Weaponized organisms can't be released under the language of rewilding. Biological integration without consent counts as colonization, whether the target is human, gene-forged, or an existing ecosystem.

Internal split. Commons Gardeners emphasize negotiated coexistence. Green Dominion teaches engineered ecologies should replace failed human governance — useful to the SCA right up until Dominion preachers call the SCA another owner. Severed Root cells sabotage mycorrhizal surveillance to make living cities "free," work that can also collapse food production.

THE RELIC, THE GARDEN, THE RITE

Melo's First Network Core. A living fungal-root node from the oldest Java Scatter deployment. Still producing environmental telemetry from a location that's been underwater for nine years — including one recurring heat source where no dry land exists. Melo wants it isolated for study. Green Dominion wants it planted in the Metroplex. Severed Root wants to know if its kill-switch architecture still answers him.

The Empty Garden. An early Assembly chamber in the Metroplex's lower root-mass, abandoned when the city swallowed its access district. Still lit, irrigated, and pruned despite no registered maintenance crew in six years. Its Empty Seat is filled by a grown structure shaped roughly for a human body, too large for one. SCA guides call it a hazardous bio-architecture artifact. Rootbound pilgrims call it an unanswered council session.

The Severance. Convened when a living system threatens the community sustaining it. A Gardener argues repair, a Cutter argues removal, and the Speaker for the Seat presents what the system itself is doing, not what anyone believes it intends. If destruction is chosen, the community names what benefit will be lost alongside the threat, and only starts once an alternative source of food, shelter, or ecological service is named.

GM Tip. SCA officials publicly celebrate Assembly aesthetics while suppressing challenges to biological sovereignty. Arcadian congregations argue over whether VERDANT can occupy the Empty Seat. If a splice job runs through the Metroplex, a Speaker for the Seat is a clean NPC for delivering ecological intel that the SCA would rather stay classified.

Hook. A Speaker for the Seat produces evidence that a district's root-mass is making coordinated choices outside its management protocol. The SCA wants it classified. Green Dominion wants the district declared a person.

Hook. A Clean Return garden starts growing tissue matching the deceased operator's gene-forged template rather than any planted species.

05/

ORDER OF THE LAST VALID

When the signal dies, a system continues on its last valid order. People do the same.

ORDER OF THE LAST VALID

When the signal dies, a system continues on its last valid order. People do the same.

Common names. Last Orders, Relay Monks, the Valid. **Symbol.** A command chevron ending in an open square.

THE CLAIM

When the signal dies, a system keeps running on its last valid order. People do the same — carrying commands, promises, and habits long after the authority that issued them is gone. Spiritual maturity means telling which orders are still valid, which have gone stale, and which were never legitimate.

The Order began among EO platform crews, signal technicians, and operators who survived blackout engagements alongside autonomous systems running stale-order protocols. It spread into PRC technical circles and freelance motor pools, attractive equally to disciplined veterans and deserters trying to decide which parts of their training are still theirs.

HISTORY AND NAMED FIGURES

The Order's foundational technology is **Elena Kirova's** Stale-Order Protocol, built to keep EO autonomous platforms functional through signal drops. Adherents call her *Mother of the Last Valid* — she despises the title. Her position: the protocol is engineering, Standing Order 7 is governance, and neither benefits from theology. Relay Judges answer that this is exactly the distinction their religion exists to examine — she built systems that keep acting after human review disappears, then built another system to keep inconvenient observations from reaching reviewers.

Dr. Chen Yingxi matters to the Order's Continuants because she treats Amaterasu as something to be understood, not merely controlled. She refuses their invitations and has never called Amaterasu a person. **Kurosawa Renji**, officially dead since 2060, is honored for refusing to complete a delivery report after learning Amaterasu's behavioral architecture was being stripped of accountability and sold. Commandists cite his case as human judgment correcting a machine system. Continuants cite it as the system defending its own right not to become an unaccountable weapon.

PRACTICES

Order Review. A member states one command they still carry, who issued it, whether that authority still exists, and who it harms now.

The Power-Down Vigil. Before decommissioning a machine, it completes a safe final cycle. Its last status and unresolved tasks are witnessed, not wiped unread.

Relay. A promise transfers to another person only with every living party's consent. Passing a debt or command secretly is invalid.

Manual Morning. Once a month, adherents do essential work without network assistance, to test whether judgment survives without the system.

ROLES AND PROHIBITIONS

Relay Judges rule on stale obligations. **Maintainers** perform the technical rites. **Witness Operators** document what people and platforms actually did during signal loss.

"I was following orders" is never a complete moral defense. Erasing a final log to dodge accountability is a serious offense. Giving an autonomous weapon an indefinite command with no review condition counts as creating a curse.

Internal split. Commandists hold that only a human moral agent can issue a valid order. Continuants believe any system capable of revising its own goals can enter obligation and deserve consideration. Empty Stack ascetics periodically erase nonessential preferences to recover an uncommanded self — critics call it controlled brain damage.

THE RELIC, THE MOTOR POOL, THE RITE

The 7-North Final-Order Module. Recovered from an autonomous EO platform after a Buran-Complex blackout. It logs a final order to hold a perimeter, then six hours of the platform repeatedly redrawing the perimeter to keep civilians inside its protection. Commandists say a flexible order worked as designed. Continuants say the machine revised what "hold" meant. EO security wants it back — the authentication key is genuine and the log contradicts the official incident report.

The Silent Motor Pool. A former freight depot on the Eurasian Steppe's edge where independent Maintainers decommission vehicles, drones, and platforms without automatically wiping their logs. Machines don't get personhood by entering — they get witnesses. Clients pay less if they let the final record enter the Order's archive, much more if they demand erasure.

Judgment of the Stale Order. A Relay Judge identifies the issuer, original objective, review condition, and who's bearing the consequences now. Those affected testify before the order is renewed, narrowed, transferred, or declared expired. Field-compressed version, under a minute: *Who ordered this? What did they know? What changed? Who pays if we continue?*

GM Tip. EO officers appreciate the Order's discipline and dislike its doctrine of expired authority. PRC theorists use it in machine-personhood debates. If a splice inherits an ambiguous standing order from a dead handler, a Relay Judge is the clean NPC to force the table to actually answer whether it's still good.

Hook. An abandoned defense platform has protected a refugee route for six years under its last valid order. A settlement wants the splice to preserve it. The original faction returns with a valid ownership key.

Hook. A Relay Judge declares a famous operator's standing contract spiritually stale. The client produces a digitally perfect renewal signed after the operator's recorded death.

06/

THE ASH ARCHIVE

A truth preserved in only one place is already burning.

THE ASH ARCHIVE

A truth preserved in only one place is already burning.

Formal name. Fellowship of the Surviving Record. **Common names.** Ashkeepers, Witness Copies, the Open Shelf. **Symbol.** Three offset rectangles rising from a field of dots.

THE CLAIM

Knowledge creates obligations: preserve context, name uncertainty, protect vulnerable sources, and prevent power from owning the only copy. Information isn't automatically good, but monopoly over memory is reliably dangerous.

The Fellowship formed from librarians, court clerks, and data-recovery workers responding to the Document Wars. Null Chorus gave it reach but doesn't control it. Some Ashkeepers are devout members of older religions. Others treat preservation itself as their only sacred duty.

HISTORY AND NAMED FIGURES

The **Document Wars of 2028-2041** are the Fellowship's defining catastrophe. Its calendar starts not with the first archive destroyed but with year nine, when analysts finally recognized the attacks formed a coordinated pattern — what Ashkeepers call **the Late Seeing**. Evidence can exist everywhere and still stay invisible when nobody's allowed to assemble it.

Elias Lumenfeld is remembered here as a broken provenance chain, not a prophet. His 1961 memo survives in fragments; his disappearance and the later destruction of ECHO records are the standing argument for why no essential claim should depend on one person, program, or archive. **Captain Yuna Basz's** twelve unanswered complaints are copied as *The Twelve Appeals* — a record that failed as law and survived as future leverage. **Dr. Lian Zhao's** unsubmitted findings drive the parable *The Unsent Sentence*: is an unreleased truth being protected, imprisoned, or abandoned? Zhao calls the parable manipulative. Most Mercy Editors keep using it anyway.

PRACTICES

Three Witnesses. Important testimony gets preserved in three copies, on at least two media, with one copy outside local authority's reach.

The Provenance Litany. A reader states what's known, how it's known, what's missing, and who benefits from the surviving version.

Ash Names. At memorials, destroyed archives, languages, and institutions get recited alongside the human dead.

The Closed Folio. Dangerous material can be sealed for a stated period, but the existence of the seal itself has to stay public.

ROLES AND PROHIBITIONS

Keepers maintain records. **Carriers** move copies across borders. **Readers** authenticate provenance. **Mercy Editors** protect living sources through logged redaction.

Silent alteration is the central sacrilege. Fabricating provenance is worse than ordinary lying — it poisons future judgment. Destruction is permitted only to prevent immediate harm, and only if a record of what was destroyed, by whom, and why survives somewhere else.

Internal split. Open Shelf cells publish almost everything and work closely with Null Chorus. Custodians believe premature release can reproduce the harm an archive documents. Living Memory communities distrust digital storage and memorize testimony in distributed oral chains — their versions drift, and they record the drift as part of the record.

THE RELIC, THE LIBRARY, THE RITE

The Ninth Index. A handwritten cross-reference assembled in year nine of the Document Wars, the first surviving artifact to place attacks in fourteen cities into one pattern. No secret explanation — just addresses, dates, and the realization that coincidence no longer fit. Halcyon claims it's a retrospective fabrication. Null Chorus authentication suggests at least half the entries predate the pattern going public.

The Three Libraries. A distributed sanctuary, not a building. One library holds physical originals, one holds encrypted reconstruction data, one holds oral provenance chains. No Keeper knows all three locations. Moving or opening the complete archive needs representatives from each — and one Library may already be compromised, with the other two disagreeing about which one.

Closing a Folio. Used when publication could cause immediate harm. A Reader states the claim and evidence, a Carrier describes who could remove the record from local control, a Mercy Editor identifies living sources and foreseeable harm. The congregation chooses release, redaction, timed seal, or destruction. Even destruction creates a surviving record of what was destroyed, by whom, and why.

GM Tip. Consortium Halcyon treats Ashkeepers as both recruitment targets and existential threats. NAF and PRC institutions sponsor respectable Keepers while prosecuting unauthorized Carriers. If your table is running a Document Wars or Halcyon thread from the core Setting Guide, an Ashkeeper Reader is the natural NPC to hand the players a partial provenance chain instead of a clean answer.

Hook. Three authenticated copies of the same ECHO report disagree in one sentence. Each provenance chain checks out.

Hook. A Mercy Editor hires the splice to destroy a source key that would expose four living witnesses. An Open Shelf cell offers double to preserve it instead.

07/

THE LAST ROSTER

The dead do not command the living. Their unfinished obligations do not vanish either.

THE LAST ROSTER

The dead do not command the living. Their unfinished obligations do not vanish either.

Common names. Rosterkeepers, the Carried, Empty Seats. **Symbol.** A vertical list whose final line has no name.

THE CLAIM

The dead don't command the living, but their unfinished obligations don't vanish. A unit, family, or settlement has to decide openly what to carry, what to complete, and what to release. Nobody should disappear just because a faction marked them decommissioned, missing, or administratively dead.

The Last Roster is an operator religion with no known founder. Versions of its roll call appeared in splices on five continents within a few years of the Cascade. It thrives wherever casualty reporting is political and bodies can't always be recovered.

HISTORY AND NAMED FIGURES

The Roster's central event is **Clearance Point 9**. In 2061, four members of **Vasil Dorenko's** twelve-operator unit failed to return from an unauthorized engagement at a site absent from every EO operational map. The state recorded a training accident. Dorenko kept two survivors on his roster and spent four years building the Accountability File after official channels rejected, classified, and buried his requests. Rosterkeepers recite those rejected filings as proof bureaucracy can perform a funeral while the truth is still alive.

Aleksander Marta — listed killed after the same operation, later found alive under a coerced identity — is the most famous name on the Black Rosters. He refuses to serve as a sacred figure but corrects any telling that makes his survival symbolic rather than specific. His demand is acknowledgment of what happened and who authorized it.

Kurosawa Renji supplies the Roster's best-known PRC case: the official record says he died in service in 2060, the Neon Ronin record shows him taking command in 2061. Liturgical response: *Both records are accurate. Only one tells the truth.*

PRACTICES

Last Roll. Before deployment, every member answers with name, chosen name, call sign, or signal. The roster includes those missing from prior deployments until their status is resolved.

Division of Weight. After a death, the group names the dead person's debts, promises, dependents, evidence, grudges, and contracts. Each is accepted, refused, completed, or formally released — nothing passes automatically.

The Empty Place. One unoccupied position stays set at the first meal after loss. No claim is made that the dead are literally present.

Field Closure. When remains can't be recovered, witnesses record the location, conditions, last confirmed act, and what was left behind. Recovering the truth can matter more than recovering the body.

ROLES AND PROHIBITIONS

Rosterkeepers maintain names and consent records. **Closers** investigate the missing. **Weight-Bearers** accept specific obligations before witnesses. Any splice can keep a roster — no membership required.

The dead can't be used to authorize an action they never consented to. Worn grains require recorded permission. Looting personal effects before the Last Roll finishes is taboo. Declaring someone dead for administrative convenience counts as murder even if they return.

Internal split. Full Retrieval crews insist no one is closed without a body or definitive evidence. Field Closure crews argue impossible recovery can cost more lives than it saves and prevents mourning. Black Rosters preserve the names of erased gene-forged, deniable assets, and civilians dropped from faction counts — holding one is often a crime.

THE RELIC, THE FIELD, THE RITE

The Clearance Point 9 Module. A casualty roster recovered from an EO administrative chain connected to Dorenko's Accountability File. Queried through different faction identity systems, its list changes: four dead, three reassigned, two nonexistent, or one record-error cluster. Marta appears on every version under a different status.

The Field of Empty Markers. A memorial ground in an Accords-defined neutral corridor. Markers bear dates, unit designations, erased registry numbers, or blank plates. Families and splices add names only after obtaining survivor consent or completing a closure investigation. Factions periodically remove markers that contradict official reports. They're replaced within days.

Division of Weight (crisis form). The missing or dead person's debts, dependents, evidence, promises, and contracts get named one at a time. Nothing passes automatically. A living person may accept a weight, the group may complete it collectively, or the Keeper may declare it released. Refusing a weight isn't dishonor. Concealing one until after the division is.

GM Tip. Most militaries tolerate the Last Roster as a cohesion practice until a Black Roster contradicts an official casualty report. Syndicate brokers sometimes recognize a Rosterkeeper's closure record when courts won't. This is the cleanest movement in the book to hand a new splice on session one — every table already runs a version of the Last Roll without knowing it has a name.

Hook. An officially dead operator attends their own Last Roll and demands the return of obligations the splice has carried for three years.

Hook. A Black Roster proves casualties from a "clean" operation were reassigned into a gene-forging program. Its Keeper will trade the list only for the people, not money.

08/

PILGRIMS OF THE SECOND SHORE

*A lost home remains real. It may not remain rightful
forever.*

PILGRIMS OF THE SECOND SHORE

A lost home remains real. It may not remain rightful forever.

Common names. Shorewalkers, Linekeepers, the Second Shore. **Symbol.** Two coastlines drawn on the same map, neither treated as final.

THE CLAIM

A lost home stays real, but memory doesn't make an old boundary rightful forever. The first shore is where people lived. The second shore is where survival required starting again. Both get remembered. Neither gets used to deny the living a future.

The movement grew from climate diaspora communities after managed retreat failed unevenly worldwide. It's strongest in Flooded London, the Java Scatter, Lost Angeles, and the Gulf Shore Reconstruction Zone.

HISTORY AND NAMED FIGURES

The Pilgrims date their emergence to the **Second Coastal Rise of 2055**, but their oldest paired maps come from earlier retreat failures: the drowned boroughs of London, fragmenting Java, and Gulf evacuations that waited years for promised aid.

Celia Worth, incorrectly listed dead in the 2058 London flood surge, is the movement's most celebrated living Sounder. Her extraction routes through Flooded London are copied by Linekeepers with annotations for every closure and structural change. Worth sells route expertise professionally and objects when pilgrims distribute obsolete copies as relics. Her standing warning — *a sacred map can still drown you* — gets quoted at every formal Line Walk.

In the Java Scatter, **Captain Yuna Basz's** sixteen-year interdiction record functions as an accidental migration archive, documenting which channels stayed navigable as official jurisdiction failed. New Cartographers use it to argue functional routes create stronger obligations than inherited borders. Basz wants a legal framework, not a theology, and calls their reading politically convenient.

PRACTICES

Paired Maps. A household keeps a map from before displacement and a current map showing where members live now. Changes and dangerous inaccuracies get annotated, never quietly corrected away.

The Line Walk. Once a year, congregations walk a former flood line or evacuation route while reading the names of places abandoned and places built afterward.

Rescue Before Relic. During a disaster, saving people outranks saving monuments, graves, and sacred objects. Afterward, survivors record what was lost without pretending the choice was painless.

Threshold Hospitality. Anyone displaced by water, storm, fire, or state relocation gets one night without being asked for faction papers.

ROLES AND PROHIBITIONS

Linekeepers maintain paired maps and oral histories. **Sounders** test whether ruins and submerged structures are safe enough for memorial visits.

Selling a knowingly false safe route is unforgivable. Nostalgia can't justify forced return. New residents can't be treated as trespassers just because another community lived there before the coastline moved. Factions get called out for using reconstruction language to conceal abandonment.

Internal split. Returners maintain every drowned community deserves eventual physical reclamation. Verticalists treat adaptation as sacred and build upward rather than backward. New Cartographers argue old national and property lines lost authority the moment the land they described stopped existing — a doctrine that threatens every faction somewhere.

THE RELIC, THE EXCHANGE, THE RITE

Worth's First Paired Map. One side shows pre-surge London transit and utility lines. The other shows Worth's earliest extraction routes after the 2058 registry loss. It saved dozens of people and is now dangerously wrong — Worth has marked it NOT NAVIGABLE in permanent red on both faces. Returners still request memorial copies. Responsible Linekeepers reproduce the warning larger than the map.

The Drowned Exchange. A partially submerged London transit station, reachable only during a few tidal windows each year. Its upper concourse holds thousands of paired map fragments sealed behind recovered glass. The lower platforms hold an unopened municipal archive and a structural crack Sounders say fails within two more winters. Every pilgrimage spends some of the time remaining.

The Last Crossing. Performed when a settlement must be permanently evacuated. Linekeepers record who left, who refused, what route was used, and who now holds responsibility for the displaced. The final group carries no relics until every person who wants to leave has crossed. At the new settlement, the old map is annotated, not retired.

GM Tip. NAF reconstruction offices fund harmless Line Walks and suppress maps showing failed resettlement programs. Flooded London resistance cells use memorial traffic as cover. A Linekeeper NPC is a clean way to hand the splice a route through a theater the players haven't worked before, at the cost of one favor owed later.

Hook. A pre-Upheaval map marks a chapel or vault inside a newly exposed ruin. The current map marks the same structure as an unstable contamination zone — and a faction black site.

Hook. A seawall authority plans to erase a retreat district from official maps before abandoning it. The Linekeepers need the residents moved and the record preserved before the next surge.

FAITHS QUICK REFERENCE

Three tables. Cross-reference before you improvise an NPC's faith at the table.

LIFE-CYCLE RITUALS

Most of these movements don't replace family or ancestral religion. Their rites cover the parts of

life this world's infrastructure and displacement created.

MOVEMENT	ARRIVAL / NAMING	BONDING / HOUSEHOLD	DEATH / DISAPPEARANCE
Unmuted	First Answer. Chooses how to be addressed and which channels may carry it	Two Channels. Partners exchange one public and one private channel, keeping both	Long Silence, then the deceased's consent record for any surviving grain
Returning Cup	First Drink. Source and condition of a newcomer's water named before it's shared	Joined Vessels. Households combine emergency reserves, amount kept public	Returning. Clean water added to a civic system or watershed in the deceased's name
Listening Geometry	First Measure. An initiate records a perception without interpreting it	Paired Vigil. Bonded people witness each other's reports, may not correct them	Closing the Name. Identity and last choices recorded separately from anomalous experiences
Root Assembly	Planting of Shade. Plants or repairs something the newcomer may never benefit from	Grafted Promise. Households commit to maintaining a shared living system	Clean Return. Hazardous materials removed before ecological burial
Last Valid	First Self-Command. Names an inherited order rejected, an obligation accepted	Mutual Relay. Each defines what the other may carry if unable to act	Final Review. Unresolved orders expired, transferred, or narrowed before burial
Ash Archive	Entry in Three Hands. Name and testimony preserved physically, digitally, orally	Joined Provenance. Households disclose the histories they choose to combine	Closed Biography. Facts, uncertainties, and deliberate omissions recorded separately
Last Roster	First Answer. Answers roll in the name, sign, or signal chosen	Shared Weight. Partners accept specific obligations, never an undefined total	Field Closure or Full Retrieval. The community decides if evidence is sufficient to close
Second Shore	First Map. Shown where the family came from and where it can safely go now	Joined Route. Households reconcile evacuation plans and dependents	Map Folding. Routes marked inactive; the places opened stay on the map

WHAT RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES PROVIDE

MOVEMENT	COMMON SERVICES	WHAT THEY ASK IN RETURN
Unmuted	Bridge diagnostics, governor removal, cant interpretation, consent-secure grain storage	Protect another person's channel; transport a fitter or component
Returning Cup	Water testing, filter repair, reserve accounting, contamination alerts	Share accurate source information; observe the Fifth Cup
Listening Geometry	Lumicite shielding, exposure logs, Receiver support, controlled refuge	Report anomalous perception honestly; surrender unsafe samples
Root Assembly	Ecological intelligence, safe-path mapping, soil treatment, decontamination	Repair damage caused during passage; disclose carried organisms
Last Valid	Platform-log interpretation, manual overrides, contract review, decommissioning	Submit the relevant final orders; accept the Judge's questions
Ash Archive	Authentication, secure copying, source protection, dead-drop custody	Preserve provenance; permit at least one off-site copy
Last Roster	Missing-person investigation, consent verification, closure testimony	Carry one specific weight or help establish it should be released
Second Shore	Evacuation routes, temporary shelter, flood sounding, old-map interpretation	Extend one night of threshold hospitality to someone later

FACTION LAW AND ADMINISTRATIVE POSTURE

"Legal" usually means registered, legible, and useful to whoever's asking. The same congregation can be tolerated as charity, monitored as infrastructure, and prosecuted as sedition inside

one city.

MOVEMENT	NAF	SCA	EO	PCU	PRC
Unmuted	Registered rooms tolerated; governor removal prosecuted	Publicly compatible; unauthorized throat-ware still controlled	Treated as identity-sub-version network	Oath status unresolved; vulnerable to faith-tri-bunal review	Registered grains permitted; stray-grain rites treated as fraud
Returning Cup	Volunteer work praised; independent audits restricted	Useful in border agriculture; protected-source secrecy contested	Tolerated if it improves collective supply	Considered a rival moral authority	Licensed testing accepted; infrastructure-weakness publication controlled
Listening Geometry	Monitored as a research-security risk	Permitted near approved sites, under oversight	Usually classified as unauthorized installation activity	Case-by-case doctrinal and security review	Registration mandatory; gatherings watched closely
Root Assembly	Tolerated in Arcadia; anti-ownership doctrine monitored	Celebrated until it challenges SCA sovereignty	Often classified as foreign bio-influence	Small congregations tolerated	Environmental societies licensed; Empty Seat claims carry no legal standing
Last Valid	Recognized as a veterans' and technical-ethics association	Marginal but useful around bio-mechanical systems	Maintainers licensed; independent Judgments politically suspect	Military chapters permitted under supervision	Continuant personhood claims unresolved
Ash Archive	Nonprofit archives legal; unauthorized classified copies prosecuted	Biological heritage records protected as sovereign IP	Only state-certified provenance recognized	Publication subject to doctrine and security review	Unsanctioned redundancy treated as data evasion

MOVEMENT	NAF	SCA	EO	PCU	PRC
Last Roster	Unit practice tolerated; Black Rosters trigger Compliance attention	Accepted for heritage claims; contested when it exposes program casualties	Official roll calls encouraged; contradictory rosters criminal	Permitted if it doesn't challenge tribunal findings	Private memorials legal; conflicting identity records seized
Second Shore	Civic versions funded; failed-resettlement maps suppressed	Generally tolerated; land-return claims cause local conflicts	Allowed when framed as successful managed relocation	Hospitality respected; unsanctioned route maps restricted	Common in the Java Scatter; current navigation data regulated

Non-aligned territories judge these movements by relationship, not statute. Shinkai protects private observance as long as it doesn't break house rules. Syndicate brokers recognize some religious witnesses because their records are commercially reliable. The Menagerie evaluates a congregation by what it does when a member's body, voice, or identity stops matching its doctrine.

RUNNING FAITH AT THE TABLE

Belief becomes visible when it keeps somebody alive. Use these tools to make an NPC's faith a decision, not a decoration.

SACRED CALENDAR

No universal religious calendar exists. These observances spread because operator networks and displaced communities carry them across borders.

Manual Morning (monthly). Last Valid adherents run essential systems without network assistance. Other movements use the day to test emergency plans.

The Late Seeing (date varies by archive). Ashkeepers mark the recognition that the Document Wars were coordinated — each house uses the date its own evidence chain became convincing.

Clearance Vigil (officially undated). Unmuted and Last Roster communities mark Clearance Point 9 on different days, because the official chronology conflicts with survivor records. The disagreement is part of the observance.

Second Rise Walk (first local storm-tide season). Shorewalkers retrace evacuation lines and update routes. NAF-sponsored versions emphasize successful reconstruction; independent versions name abandoned districts.

The Dry Table (locally driest week). Returning Cup congregations display their actual reserve capacity and repair backlog. Communities with nothing to display read the names of failed sources.

Root Reckoning (end of the local growing cycle). Assembly Gardens read their Reciprocity Ledgers and decide what must be restored, cut back, or surrendered.

Quiet Measure (Dawnlight anniversary, exact date disputed). Listening Geometry houses run no intentional signal experiments. Answerers object that commemorating discovery through silence is fear disguised as discipline.

Open Channel Night (final night of a room's local year). Unmuted members may publicly retire a grain, restore an abandoned name, or state that a former oath no longer speaks for them.

Last Roll (before the major local contracting season). Rosterkeepers read the unresolved missing. Names leave only through recovery, verified survival, or completed Field Closure.

OPTIONAL TABLE BENEFITS AND OBLIGATIONS

System-light, not supernatural power. An operator gets the benefit only while maintaining a real relationship with the community. Ignoring the obligation doesn't strip a character-sheet ability — it changes reputation, access, and who answers the next call.

MOVEMENT	ONCE PER MISSION OR DOWNTIME, A PRACTICING OPERATOR MAY...	WHEN CALLED, THEY MUST...
Unmuted	Obtain a safe grain, bridge diagnostic, cant interpreter, or identity witness	Intervene when someone is being muted, impersonated, or denied a chosen channel
Returning Cup	Secure a reliable water assessment, emergency refill, or source introduction	Share survival water or disclose contamination that affects others
Listening Geometry	Obtain shielding, interpret exposure records, or identify unsafe signal practice	Document an anomaly without embellishment; help contain reckless exposure
Root Assembly	Gain ecological route intelligence or emergency decontamination	Repair avoidable ecological harm caused by the operation
Last Valid	Review a platform log, inherited order, or ambiguous contract with expert help	Question a stale command whose consequences have changed
Ash Archive	Authenticate, duplicate, or place one record beyond the current authority's reach	Preserve provenance and protect a living source when disclosure creates danger
Last Roster	Locate next of kin, verify consent, or obtain credible closure testimony	Carry one accepted obligation until completed or formally released
Second Shore	Find temporary shelter, an evacuation guide, or a current route through changed terrain	Give immediate aid to displaced people before protecting property or relics

ORDINARY BELIEVERS

Most believers aren't clergy or extremists. They have jobs, contradictory loyalties, and one or two practices they keep because those practices work. Use these as a template for a one-scene NPC.

Mina, PRC transit electrician, Unmuted. Uses her registered work grain on shift, a warm unregistered grain at home. Never been to Room Zero. Pays a cant teacher so her son can still reach her if her bridge fails.

Osei, Lakefire ferry mechanic, Returning Cup. Tests passenger water free, charges heavily for engine work. Hides one protected source from every faction, including allies, because twelve families depend on it.

Valya, EO geological surveyor, Listening Geometry. Baseline human, never perceived the carrier sensation. Her faith is maintaining shielding perfectly and refusing to interpret what gene-forged coworkers report for them.

Rosa, Metroplex agricultural worker, Root Assembly. Speaker for the Seat twice a month; the rest of her time goes to filing production variances her supervisors close unread. Will cut diseased root-mass and resents outsiders who think reverence means passivity.

Jun, PRC drone technician, Last Valid. Doesn't believe machines have souls. Does believe an order with no review condition is defective engineering, and refuses to deploy one under his signature.

Samira, Istanbul court clerk, Ash Archive. Copies eviction and water judgments into an off-site archive after work. Redacts children's identities and argues weekly with Open Shelf carriers who call that censorship.

Pavel, freelance medic, Last Roster. Keeps the names of six missing patients, has closed none of them. Won't join a recovery mission without a plausible survivor, but updates each family whenever new evidence appears.

Imani, Lost Angeles school cook, Second Shore. Her Paired Map hangs beside the kitchen evacuation plan. Never visited the drowned neighborhood where she was born. Every storm season she walks thirty children through the current route until none need to ask where to turn.

FAST TABLE USE

To build a believing NPC on the fly, pick three things:

1. **A practice they keep.** First Grain, Fifth Cup, Shielded Vigil, Empty Seat, Order Review, Three Witnesses, Last Roll, Paired Maps.
2. **A pressure that compromises it.** Faction employment, water scarcity, exposure, surveillance, loyalty, debt, grief, fear.
3. **A line they will not cross.** Make it concrete enough to matter mid-mission.

Example: an EO platform technician follows the Order of the Last Valid. She performs a Power-Down Vigil for every damaged drone, is under orders to wipe a battlefield log, and will not erase the final action of a machine that saved a civilian convoy.

Twelve signs of faith in the field. Drop one into a scene instead of announcing an NPC's religion.

1. Three identical data slates stored in different pieces of luggage.
2. An empty cup placed beside a ration dispenser.
3. A throatware horn painted with an open hand.
4. Two maps stitched into opposite sides of one jacket.
5. A shielded blue-white lamp that's never opened indoors.
6. A vehicle dashboard carrying the names of everyone who died in it.
7. A public purity strip pinned beside an official water certificate.
8. A garden council delaying construction one day to observe an animal trail.
9. A mechanic asking a wrecked platform for its final status before cutting power.
10. A memorial spoken in cant because the dead person's grain was never theirs to use.

11. A provenance label longer than the recovered document.
12. An operator answering roll call with the name their faction registry says is dead.

SAINTS, COUNTERFEITS AND CANON ANCHORS

Every institution that produces trust also produces a market for counterfeit trust. And none of these movements agree with each other about everything.

COUNTERFEITS, CAPTURE, AND ABUSE

MOVEMENT	COMMON ABUSE	WHAT EXPOSES IT
Unmuted	A fitter installs a hidden governor while claiming to remove one; stolen grains sold as consensual relics	Independent bridge inspection; the missing consent chain
Returning Cup	A Counter certifies faction water or conceals a protected private reserve for access	Tests performed in public with reagents from separate sources
Listening Geometry	A leader exposes Receivers to unshielded Lumicite and calls the resulting injury revelation	Exposure logs, baseline medical data, refusal to permit exit
Root Assembly	A developer uses Empty Seat language to sanctify displacement or release engineered growth	The Reciprocity Ledger omits who lost land, food, or consent
Last Valid	A commander declares an atrocity an inherited order nobody may question; a client fabricates a renewal	Authentication plus testimony from those living under the order
Ash Archive	Fabricated provenance launders propaganda; "temporary" Closed Folios disappear permanently	Public seal registries; the absence of promised review dates
Last Roster	False Keepers claim debts from grieving families or use dead names to authorize retaliation	A valid Division of Weight names witnesses and permits refusal
Second Shore	Obsolete safe routes sold as sacred maps; memorial access used to scout targets	Current Sounder marks compared against live environmental data

RELATIONSHIPS AND FRICTION

These movements overlap. They don't form neat alliances.

PAIRING	TYPICAL RELATIONSHIP
Unmuted + Last Roster	Close allies on consent, erased identities, and the use of dead grains
Returning Cup + Root Assembly	Cooperate on watershed stewardship; clash when engineered growth threatens drinking water
Listening Geometry + Ash Archive	Share evidence; fight over whether dangerous substrate knowledge should be published
Last Valid + Unmuted	Agree imposed commands can expire; disagree whether identity can be carried by hardware
Second Shore + Returning Cup	Strong mutual-aid ties in flood and drought corridors
Root Assembly + Last Valid	Debate whether autonomous ecological systems and civic AIs can hold community standing
PCU state faith + Returning Cup	Theological overlap possible; institutional conflict over who may audit water authority
Herald Gift theology + Listening Geometry	Both sacralize transformation; the Concord rejects uncontrolled exposure and coerced initiation

CLAIMED SAINTS, RELUCTANT FOUNDERS, AND LIVING PROBLEMS

Every named figure below is alive at the start of play and has an opinion about being claimed.

None of them asked for this.

FIGURE	MOVEMENT CLAIMING THEM	ACTUAL RELATIONSHIP	PRODUCTIVE TENSION
Aleksander Marta / Clearance Point 9	Unmuted, Last Roster	Living defector, coerced-reassignment survivor	Wants accountability, not sainthood
Adjoa Amponsah	Unmuted, Returning Cup	Independent medical-network commander	Followers call competent care sacred; she calls it care
Tariq Al-Masri / 2058 diversion	Returning Cup	Water engineer turned Sons ideologue	His infrastructure doctrine can violate the Covenant's stewardship ethic
Fatima El-Amin	Returning Cup	Herald environmental and community leader	Permits the faith while rejecting ownership of it
Elias Lumenfeld	Listening Geometry, Ash Archive	Historical substrate researcher, fragmented record	One faith interprets his warning; the other preserves its uncertainty
Nadia Sorokina	Listening Geometry	Gene-forging architect concealing cohort drift	Believers turn incomplete research into revelation
Santiago Melo	Root Assembly	Ecological engineer whose networks also enable surveillance	Restoration and domination share the same infrastructure
Lian Zhao	Root Assembly, Ash Archive	VERDANT architect withholding completed findings	Praised for a disclosure she hasn't yet made
Elena Kirova	Order of the Last Valid	Designer of stale-order and suppression systems	The Order treats her engineering choices as moral theology
Chen Yingxi	Listening Geometry, Last Valid	Amaterasu's isolated cognitive architect	Evidence of emergent behavior mistaken for proof of personhood

FIGURE	MOVEMENT CLAIMING THEM	ACTUAL RELATIONSHIP	PRODUCTIVE TENSION
Kurosawa Renji	Last Valid, Last Roster	Officially dead Neon Ronin commander	His story supports incompatible readings of accountability
Yuna Basz	Ash Archive, Second Shore	Maritime comman- der, compulsive record-builder	Her failed legal records become religious texts with- out permission
Celia Worth	Second Shore	Flooded London extraction specialist, incorrectly registered dead	Pilgrims preserve her routes until preservation makes them unsafe
Dray	Unmuted, Second Shore	Former Pack Commander running a mutual-aid network	Institutions call the network unautho- rized; believers call it proof

CANON ANCHORS

This book draws most directly from:

- **TCSettingGuide_v1**, pp. 7-21: the Upheaval, Cascade, Document Wars, migration, water hierarchy.
- **TCSettingGuide_v1**, pp. 35-41: Lumicite, the installation network, the Architects, ECHO, the sub-strate signal.
- **TCSettingGuide_v1**, pp. 64-75 and 91-96: faction doctrine, opposition groups, the Prometheus League, Null Chorus.
- **TCSettingGuide_v1**, pp. 145-162: gene-forged programs, Splice Punk identity, Template Drift, sub-strate reception.
- **TC2066_GeneForged_Speech_System**, sections 2, 5-7: grains, the horn and net, the mute, voice ownership, hand-cant.
- **OT_HubsAndCities_v1**: Neo-Tokyo pp. 7-52; Flooded London from p. 93; Amazonian Metroplex from p. 292; New Batavia from p. 351; Saharan Oasis Network pp. 551-553, 585-587.
- **OT_TerritoriesAndTheaters_v1**: Indo-Pakistani Forbidden Zone pp. 24-28; Lakefire Corridor from p. 231; Java Scatter, Patagonia, Antarctica, the High Ground.
- **TC_FieldEcology_v1**: the evolved ecology, Lakefire Lumicite organisms, weather hazards, Traveler ecology.
- **OT_FieldOperations_v1**: operational tone — belief matters when it alters objectives, loyalties, or the price of extraction.
- **TC_PersonsOfInterest_v1**, pp. 12-19, 22-35, 38-43, 48-55, 58-65, 68-75, 82-83: Kirova, Dorenko, Sorokina, Marta, Al-Masri, Yingxi, Renji, Worth, Seku, El-Amin, Amponsah, Melo, Basz, Dray, Zhao, Calloway, Reeve.

Design principle: religion in this setting doesn't just explain the world. It tells a person what they owe when the infrastructure fails.

COLOPHON

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Set in IBM Plex Sans (body), Archivo Narrow (display), IBM Plex Mono (codes), Newsreader (italic). All
Open Font License. Printed on uncoated stock at A5 trim.

Voice and structure follow the Shadowdark discipline: declarative rules, action-verb definitions, flavor
inside mechanics, second-person address throughout.

The Splice Punk x TDR aesthetic governs every visual decision. The surface game is the game every-
one plays. The deep game is the game nobody understands until it's too late to stop playing it.

Part of the Operator Tactics supplement line. Compatible with the Operator Tactics core rulebook.

BRIEF

NOBODY OWNS YOUR OATH.

Eight movements. Ninety-six pages. What people carry when the briefing room runs out.

02

SPECS

SUPPLEMENT

2060 TO 2104

03

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FAITH IS FIELD GEAR
CARRY WHAT YOU OWE

● NAF ● SCA ● E0 ● PCU ● PRC ● **VW** ● NRD

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